Rajasthan Atomic Power Station

5053. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Atomic Energy Act to facilitate entry of private agencies in generating nuclear power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Canadian Government have shown interest to invest in the Indian nuclear power sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Canadian Government had decided to discontinue collaboration at the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (BAPS) in 1974;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether Union Government propose to provide certain concessions to that Government ; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Government of India are open to specific offers for participation by private firms, Indian or foreign, in the nulcear power sector. Such offers, when received, have to be considered on the basis of technical suitability, economic attractiveness and conditions attached thereto. Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 will have to be considered at the appropriate time.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. At Government level there is no such communication so far.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Canadian Government discontinued collaboration unilaterally after the peaceful nuclear experiment in 1974.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Import of Toners

5054. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether nexus between importers of toners and the customs officials at the Calcutta port has come to surface wherein substantial loss has been caused to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the racket that has been going on in the import of toners; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) In the cases detected and investigated in the Calcutta Custom House, no such nexus has been noticed in respect of Import of toners at Calcutta Port.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[Translation]

Canadian Office in Chandigarh

5055. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Canada Government has agreed to open an office in Chandigarh for the convenience of Punjab's travellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the progress made for opening to the liaison office in chandigrah; and

(d) the names of countries which have agreed to open their liaison offices in India during the last three years and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Canadian Government had proposed opening of an office in Chandigarh.

(b) and (c) Government of India had acceded to the Canadian Government's request and a Canadian office opened in Chandigarh in January 1997.

(d) Several countries had approached GOI during the last three years for opening of their liaison offices. GOI had acceded to requests from several countries in this regard details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details regarding countries permitted to open offices in India during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the country	Name of the Office	City
1	2	3	4
(I)			
1.	Burkina Faso	Embassy	New Delhi
2.	South Africa	Consulate General	Mumbai
(II)			
1.	Commonwealth of Dominica	Hony. Consulate	New Delhi
2.	Mexico	-do-	Mumbai
3.	Tanzania	-do-	Mumbai
4.	Canada	Hony. Consulate General	Calcutta